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| 1 |

[image]

Today was fun

***A/N* :**

I'm trying something new.
Not feeling too well.
So maybe making some "shorter" chapter stories will help.
Oh well.
Enjoy.
By the way, this is in the point of view of a male/tom character.

| 2 |

I played with Grasspaw, she really seems to like me

| 3 |

I'm really tired

| 4 |

I don't want to miss anything, but I am too tired to stay up

| 5 |

I wake up

| 6 |

I don't feel Duskfur beside me. That's odd, she's always by me

| 7 |

I shrug. It's probably not anything

| 8 |

Suddenly I feel something-no, someone-knock into me.

| 9 |

I look up

| 10 |

Oh, it's only Patchkit. She's one of the other kits in the nursery besides well of course me, Stormkit, and Echokit

| 11 |

"Hey Acornkit"
"Yes, Patchkit?"
"Want to play moss-ball?"
"Sure!"

| 12 |

We run out of camp. I see Duskfur beside Weedfern, Echokit and Patchkit's mother

| 13 |

We bound up to the two queens

| 14 |

"Yes, Acornkit?" Duskfur asks me.

"Can we have some moss?"

"Of course."

"I'll fetch it," Weedfern mewls, before going off to fetch some

| 15 |

She returns

| 16 |

She gives the moss to us

| 17 |

Stormkit comes up, and he asks to join. Greedily I open my jaws to say 'no' but Patchkit says "yes"

| 18 |

We pad beside the nursery

| 19 |

We begin to play.

Patchkit passes it to me first, then I pass it back to her.

She passes it to Stormkit, who passes it back to Patchkit.

| 20 |

She passes it back to Stormkit.

| 21 |

He passes it to Patchkit.

| 22 |

Before I know it, I'm left out of the game.

| 23 |

"Uhh... Guys?" I ask.

They ignore me.

| 24 |

"Guys?"

Still no answer.

| 25 |

"Patchkit?"

No answer.

| 26 |

"Stormkit?"

No answer.

| 27 |

In defeat, I give up.

| 28 |

I turn around and enter the nursery, my tail dragging in the dirt. I can hear the giggles of Patchkit and Stormkit behind me.

| 29 |

I wonder if my father would've payed attention to me, I think.

| 30 |

Well he's dead, I finish my thought.

| 31 |

One moon goes by.

| 32 |

Two moons go by.

| 33 |

Three moons go by.

| 34 |

I'm almost six moons old.

My apprentice ceremony is tomorrow.

| 35 |

I don't feel any excitement

| 36 |

As usual.

| 37 |

Three moons of being ignored by Patchkit and Stormkit.

And Echokit never talks to me anyway.

| 38 |

I can hear Duskfur talking to Weedfern and Flowerpetal about how excited she is about leaving the nursery.

| 39 |

My ears flatten.

She doesn't love me. Like everyone.

| 40 |

And again, the question *if my father was here, would he love me?* stuck in my head.

| 41 |

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey, gather beneath the Highrock for a Clan meeting!" Antstar's yowl echoes around the rocks.

It's been a day. Today is my apprenticeship ceremony.

| 42 |

I groom my fur quickly, Duskfur already gathering around, and I pick a place to sit. Alone.

| 43 |

"It is time for four kits to become apprentices," Antstar begins

| 44 |

"Acornkit, step up."

| 45 |

My blood goes cold as I take a step forward, all eyes on me. This is it. I'm being apprenticed. I take my spot under the Highrock and stare up at the russet–furred tom known as Antstar.

| 46 |

"Acornkit, you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to become an apprentice. From this day on, until you revive your warrior name, you will be known as Acornpaw."

Antstar's eyes scan the surroundings for who my mentor will be.

"Tallgaze will be your mentor.

Tallgaze, it is time for you to take on an apprentice. You had received excellent training from Sorrelfrost, and your apprentice will be Acornpaw. I expect you to pass down all you know to him."

I watch the tom pad up to me. I know that he's trained some of the best warriors, and that I'm probably going to be his last apprentice before he becomes an elder.

We touch noses and I disappear back into the crowd.

| 47 |

Patchkit was named Patchpaw, and her mentor was named Marshfire.

Echokit was named Echopaw, and her mentor was named Stonetuft.

Stormkit became Stormpaw, and his mentor was named Quailfoot.

| 48 |

As the meeting ends, I turn and walk toward the apprentices' den.

Cheers echo through the ravine, but I don't really take any note to it.

Duskfur still hasn't congratulated me.

| 49 |

Grasspaw greets me and gives me a nod. I smile a bit and dip my head. She's still nice. Even if she hasn't talked to me for a while.

| 50 |

She's just busy, I think. *She's just been busy with her life.*

| 51 |

I pick a nest near Grasspaw. *Maybe she'll notice me a bit more if I stay here*, I think.

| 52 |

I hear a growl and turn around.

| 53 |

There stands a gray tabby tom with icy blue eyes.

I don't know this cat, and he is a bit bigger than Grasspaw.

"Y-Yes?" I manage to meow to him.

| 54 |

"That's *my* nest," he hisses.

| 55 |

"Oh. Sorry."

He flashes a glare at me before he pads to the nest I was about to lay in. In dismay, I pick a nest near the back of the den.

| 56 |

It's been a day.

I've already explored the territory with Grasspaw and the gray tabby apprentice, who is apparently called Thawpaw.

| 57 |

I've tried to talk to Grasspaw. I have.

| 58 |

But she's too busy talking to *Thawpaw*.

| 59 |

Should I be jealous? Probably not. It's not like I deserve any happiness anyway.

| 60 |

So I'll just have to play along.

| 61 |

Days have gone by.

Weeks have gone by.

And I'm angry.

| 62 |

Grasspaw is too busy for me because of Thawpaw.

| 63 |

Patchpaw is too busy for me because of Stormpaw.

And again, Echopaw never talks to me, and we are *not* friends.

| 64 |

I just want a friend. Anyone who will actually stick by my side till' the end.

| 65 |

Is that too much to ask?

| 66 |

One of the elders, Specklenose, has been ill lately. The medicine cat, Vixenfoot, has asked Thawpaw and I to gather some moss for Specklenose.

| 67 |

I already know that this is not going to be fun.

| 68 |

Thawpaw seems nice at first.

But he's really a fox-heart. And that's how Grasspaw got caught in his trap.

| 69 |

We walk on in silence. "I can't believe I have to do this job with the *lowest* cat in this Clan."

| 70 |

I keep walking along with the gray tom. "Okay."

Thawpaw looks surprised that that's all I say.

Thawpaw keeps walking. "It's too bad I have to do this job with a cat as mouse-brained as his father."

| 72 |

I turn my head to Thawpaw, and my claws sink into the ground. "What did you say?"

"What? You haven't heard the rumors?" Thawpaw snorts. "It's said he ran away as a kittypet."

"That's not true," I hiss. "He was a noble warrior!"

"Kittypet! Kittypet! Kittypet!" Thawpaw jeers.

| 74 |

"No... Stop..." I murmur, shooing a threatening glare toward Thawpaw, but he continues with his chanting.

No, I'm not a kittypet! I think, but can't think that until Thawpaw *shuts up!*

"Just go run away with your father," Thawpaw sneers. "No one wants you here!"

I had had it. I wasn't going to be taunted and bullied by this cat my whole life. I'd give him a lesson to remember!

| 76 |

"Just shut up!" I yowl, turning on him. I raise my paw to score my claws down his muzzle, but I badly miss, and my claws scorch down his throat.

He tries to yowl but only chokes on blood. Blood seeps out of the wound and pools onto the ground. "H-Have pity!" He stammers, stumbling onto his side.

| 77 |

I watch in horror as his eyes turn pale. I could hardly breathe. What had I done? I'd *killed* him! So *easily*!

I'm a monster!

| 78 |

I narrow my eyes. *But is it that* bad*? StarClan allowed me to kill him so easily...*

So maybe this is what I'm suppose to do.

I look at the stars. *But is it what my father would want me to do?*

| 79 |

***A/N* : Sorry for no updates.**

I feel bad. Why had I done it? I should've controlled myself, my emotions.

But he was being rude anyway, he deserved it.

Then I panic. My heart begins to race. *StarClan! What will I do? If they find out I killed him...they might kill* me*!*

| 80 |

I'll have to throw him into the lake. Say a fox attacked us or something and nearly killed Thawpaw as he ran into the lake.

Yeah. They'll have to believe me...

right?

| 81 |

"I'm sorry," I murmur quietly, picking up Thawpaw's scruff and dragging him to the lake.

I throw him in the lake and falter. I see the blood rise to the top of the small waves and come crashing down on the sand. I take a few steps back, and turn around, heading home.

| 82 |

Before I return to camp, I roll in some leaves and dirt, ridding the scent of blood from my fur. I lap up water from a small puddle nearby to wash off any blood on my muzzle. I make sure to carefully take the fur out of my claws and bury it nearby, deep enough so it couldn't be scented.

I take a deep breath. *This is it. Life or death...loner or Clanmate..I hope it won't come to this.*

| 83 |

I hang my head low, tail drooping as I walk into camp. Cats don't notice me at first, and then they realize Thawpaw isn't with me. Vixenfoot is confused. "Acornpaw, where is Thawpaw? And where is the moss?"

| 84 |

"He's dead," I meow quietly. Vixenfoot's eyes widen and cats are already gathering around to hear the story. Antstar is sitting in front of me, his green eyes full of suspicion.

I'm sorry, okay! Please forgive me, StarClan!

Gorgefall, Thawpaw's mentor, is staring at me in dismay. I notice Grasspaw not too far away, tears entering her eyes as I begin to explain the story.

| 85 |

My current state is not good. I am terrified, wondering if Antstar would believe me. I am already horrified at what I had done, and if Antstar speaks of his suspicions, it won't help at all.

"W–We...We were going to collect moss for Specklenose, as Vixenfoot had asked us to do...on the way there we encountered a fox. Thawpaw leaped at the fox, but was scratched across his throat. I watched as he ran toward the lake..." I begin to shake, as I hating lying. Antstar seems to understand I am in a bad state, and he rests his tail tip on my shoulder. "Hey, it's alright, little one. Go on." His eyes are kind and bright, and I feel a boost of energy from this.

"So... I ran after him. He jumped into the lake and I tried to help. I ran in after him," I point to my wet paws, "but couldn't reach him in time. He was already under the water, and I couldn't even see his..his head by now. The fox didn't dare to come into the water, so I waited for it to leave. It finally did, and ran toward ShadowClan's territory.

After that, I came back to camp. I didn't think you would believe me...that's why I'm so shaky. I thought you'd blame me for his death."

Antstar nodded. "Hey. It's okay. We understand; it was never intended. Scalestorm–" he indicates toward his deputy, "–and I understand. You can calm yourself now."

I try to stop shaking but I can't. "Come with me," Vixenfoot meows, leading me to the medicine cat den. I try to ignore the stares from the other cats directed at me, but I grow hot under my fur. Why did I have to be the center of attention now?

She directs me to a nest and I lay in it, resting my head on the soft nest. I can hear Vixenfoot murmuring to herself. "Dandelion Leaves...no. We don't have any...Chamomile? Great.."

I am a bit confused why she's talking to herself, but maybe that's what medicine cats do. I'm not too sure, since I'm not training to become one.

She turns around, placing some white flowers in front of me. "Eat these," she orders. I reluctantly consume the flowers, almost spitting out the bad taste. But I realize it soon calms me, and I sigh.

"I want you to stay in here tonight," the medicine cat meows to me. I nod weakly, turning on my side and curling up in a ball.

I hate myself.

Why did I do this?

I could've prevented this...I really could have.

If I had just controlled my temper none of this would've happened.

But noo. I had to be so mouse–brained to even think of touching Thawpaw! And look what I have done? I've ruined myself. I'll be haunted for life from this...I just wish I could die!

I feel a tail touch my ear lightly and I twitch, opening my eyes up to the medicine cat. "Y-Yes?" I stutter.

"Tallgaze wants to speak to you," she meows. "Do you mind if he comes in here?"

I shake my head, waiting for my mentor to arrive. What will he say to me? Will he blame me? Kill me? Oh, StarClan! Why–

I am cut off by the pawsteps of my black–and–white patched mentor. He looks down at me and sits beside me. "We'll go out battle training tomorrow, does that sound good?" He murmurs.

I contemplate. I don't even want to go, but I wonder if he'll become suspicious if I say no. "Yeah, sure," I reply.

"Good. Now get some rest, Acornpaw. We have a long day ahead of us tomorrow."

I watch him leave.

Great.

Now what kind of a cat am I?

| 86 |

"Come on, Acornpaw. Time for training!"

| 87 |

It has been a day. I am currently very tired from yesterday, but I ignore the thought as I stand to my paws, padding out of the medicine cat den.

| 88 |

Tallgaze watches me appear out of the medicine cat den. "Come on, we're meeting Grasspaw and Patchpaw."

| 89 |

"Will Marshfire and Cloudclaw be there?" I ask.

"Yes," Tallgaze replies hastily.

"Well, okay," I reply.

We exit camp and head to the clearing. My claws dig into the ground with each pawstep. I am determined to win a battle against one of them.

| 91 |

We finally arrive in the clearing, Marshfire and Cloudclaw already there. Grasspaw is sitting beside her mentor, and Patchpaw eyes me as I follow Tallgaze beside Grasspaw and her mentor, Cloudclaw.

| 92 |

"So, should we go ahead and battle now? Or just battle train?" Cloudclaw asks.

"They have been apprentices for two moons now. I guess we should see what they would do in battle," Tallgaze replies, nodding at Marshfire.

"Let's put Acornpaw and Patchpaw against each other." Cloudclaw nodds, clearly agreeing.

| 93 |

Patchpaw looks determined, and I scoff.

She can't beat me.

| 94 |

"Three...two...one...fight!" Tallgaze yowls.

| 95 |

Before I can even move, Patchpaw is leaping at me. My eyes widen and I dodge the last minute, but she manages to whack my cheek.

Her eyes are narrow in determination. *She's good. I just have to be better.*

| 96 |

I wince and leap back as she tries to hit me again. I roll out of the way and she tries the move again, but I duck and roll once more before kicking out my hind legs at her.

Before she can do anything as she jumps to her paws, I rake my claws across her ear, creating a nick.

"Hey!" Patchpaw wails in pain and anger, "no claws!"

I don't listen and blood roars in my ears as I scratch her cheek. She stumbles back and I leap on her, knocking her on her back. My claws dig into her chest and before I even know it, I'm grinning.

| 98 |

"Acornpaw! *Stop*!"

I stop abruptly and watch the blood pool onto the ground. I let out a loud gasp and stumble off of her.

"P–Patchpaw." My voice is a hushed, cracked whisper as I look at what I did.

Instantly, a picture of Thawpaw's bloody body formes in my mind.

| 99 |

Patchpaw is rushed to the medicine cat den.

I wait outside. I'm on the ground with my paws over my eyes, probably sobbing my eyes out at what I did.

If she dies I will never forgive myself.

| 100 |

A/N: Part 100! :D

—

Tallgaze walks up to me. "It's not your fault," he mews quietly.

"Of course it's my fault!" I spit, not letting my eyes look at my mentor.

Tallgaze says nothing, and with a sigh, turns and walks away. I can practically feel the horrified and furious gaze of Marshfire, Patchpaw's mentor, on my pelt.

| 101 |

"Did you hear about what happened with Acornpaw and Patchpaw? He almost killed her..."

I can hear the gossip of Echopaw and Stormpaw. At least Grasspaw isn't talking about me.

Hopefully.

| 102 |

Antstar is watching me, too. I know he is.

I wonder if he thinks I murdered Thawpaw—sorry, I wonder if he *knows* I murdered Thawpaw. And if Patchpaw is killed...I might just be exiled.

| 103 |

It's the next day.

| 104 |

The medicine cat, Vixenfoot, has announced that Patchpaw will be okay. Just a few scars.

You don't know how much my anxiety subdues.

For once, I think irritably.

| 105 |

Grasspaw finally starts talking to me again.

My heart flutters in my chest as she just...talks to me.

I think I love her.

Is that why I killed Thawpaw? I shake my head. *No, remember, he was taunting me about my father...*

The question if my father really did turn kittypet still stuck in my mind.

"Hey, it's okay. Patchpaw will be fine, remember?" Grasspaw purred.

She thinks she knows what I'm thinking. But she never will...

I chuckle. "Okay..okay." Guess I should just act like I'm thinking about Patchpaw instead of something else so Grasspaw doesn't abandon me.

| 106 |

Grasspaw looks at me, and I stare at her deep amber eyes.

"Acornpaw."

The voice startles me and I look up to see Antstar standing over me, his eyes narrowed.

| 107 |

"Come with me in my den. We have matters to discuss."

I gulp and follow him to the den, entering. He sits down and curls his tail around his paws, but I stay standing, stiffening at his gaze that washes over me.

| 109 |

A/N: Thanks so much for 5k views!! I never thought this book would make it to even 1k, let alone 5,000! Thank you so much.

—

"You almost killed Patchpaw. And Thawpaw died with you." His leader's eyes turned cold. "Is there something I should know?"

I stand still. "I don't think there's anything you're missing. It was merely an accident." My voice is cool and patient, and I wonder why that is.

| 111 |

Antstar lashes out with his claws and tears into my ear, creating a nick. Blood flows down my face and drips to the ground.

"Get out of here," he spits. "You got what you needed. And if you do this again, I *will* kill you!"

I turn tail and run out of the den, my eyes wide. My paws scramble to even place them in front of me, and I nearly slip as I run down Highstone.

| 113 |

I hear my name being called by Grasspaw but I don't turn around. I'm terrified. I run into the apprentices' den and collapse in my nest. *What have I done?! Now Antstar hates me!* I want to wail.

| 114 |

"Acornpaw! Are you okay? What happened in there? A–oh my StarClan! Your ear!"

That's the voice of Grasspaw. She comes running up to me and lifts my head up to meet her's. "We need to treat this injury. Did Antstar do this?"

I turn my back to her. "I'm fine!" I spit, and I think I surprise her with my new irritableness.

"No, you're not!" she replies back.

| 117 |

"You wouldn't understand!" My voice raises into a wail and I just want to shrink and disappear right now.

"Then...help me understand," she whispers.

| 119 |

I look up at her, the nick in my ear stinging painfully, but I act like it doesn't hurt. *That's what I get!* I hiss in my head.

"I can't help you understand. So just...leave me alone." My voice is softer and I close my eyes, waiting for her to leave.

| 120 |

She leaves.

| 121 |

I watch her leave.
Tears fall.
I'm so disappointed in myself. I guess I always have been, though.

I'm a monster...

| 122 |

I wish my father was here...

| 123 |

What if it happens again? What if I…I kill a cat again?

| 124 |

Two moons go by

| 125 |

If you're wondering, no, I haven't hurt or killed any cat.

| 126 |

I've visited Patchpaw every day in the medicine cat den. Now she's out of the den and she's fine.

Antstar still hates me.

Grasspaw and I are closer.

I guess you could say things are...*okay*.

| 127 |

Now I'm ten moons.
Almost a warrior in two more moons.

If Antstar even makes me one, I think irritably.

| 128 |

So yeah.

Everything's pretty much normal.

| 129 |

Until Vixenfoot, our beloved medicine cat, is killed by a badger.

| 130 |

I remember watching two warriors, Ferretnose and Gorgefall, dash into camp and break the news. Vixenfoot had been around longer than Antstar, I was told.

Apparently a badger had crossed the three cats' path when they were out helping the old she-cat collect herbs. The badger struck at her throat without hesitation and snapped her neck. Ferretnose and Gorgefall scared the badger off into ShadowClan territory, then ran back as fast as they could to tell every cat.

But that's not what worried everybody.

| 133 |

Vixenfoot never had an apprentice.

| 134 |

So basically ThunderClan doesn't have a medicine cat.

| 135 |

"One of the apprentices must be chosen to become the new medicine cat," I can hear Scalestorm, the deputy, murmur to Antstar.

"But which one?" Antstar asks. "You know none of them want to become a medicine cat. They all want to be noble warriors."

"Maybe we should pick Acornpaw," Scalestorm considers.

Antstar turns to me with pure distrust and disgust reflected in his eyes.

"No," Antstar spits, turning back to his deputy. "Pick another one."

"Grasspaw, maybe?" Scalestorm asks.

Antstar stares at him for a minute. "Grasspaw...maybe so."

"But I'd rather it not be her," Antstar continues.

Antstar's eyes widen. "Echopaw..." he murmurs. "*Echopaw* will become the new medicine cat!"

"Perfect..." Scalestorm murmurs. "But are you sure you want to strip her of her rank? She probably knows nothing about being a medicine cat."

"She has no friends anyway." Antstar shrugs. "Besides, I think she'd be a pretty good medicine cat."

| 142 |

I watch in dismay.

Echopaw may not be my friend, but she doesn't deserve this.

Antstar leaps on the Highstone. "All cats old enough to catch their own prey, gather beneath the Highstone for a Clan meeting!"

I'm already beneath the Highstone, so there's no point in me moving. Cats crowd around me, most probably already knowing what's happening.

| 144 |

"As you all know, Vixenfoot has died." Antstar bows his broad, russet-furred head. Then he raises it and a look of determination crosses his eyes.

"However, I believe one of our apprentices is going to make a fine medicine cat."

Murmurs spread through the Clan, cats exchanging glances. My ears flatten. *I already know who it is*, I think grimly.

| 145 |

Cats gaze at Antstar expectantly.

"Echopaw will be our new medicine cat!" He calls out.

Everyone turns their gaze to the poor she-cat.

-

***AN*: Sorry I didn't update, had to eat dinner and clean dishes, etc. AND OH MY GOD 7k????! My mind is blown. THANK YOU GUYS SO MUCH! Even you ghost readers out there, maybe leave a vote or comment to let me know you're here! And for those that comment and vote and such thank you sooo much for your support! I probably wouldn't have continued this book if it weren't for you guys. So wanted to say thank you guys so much. ❣**

| 146 |

Echopaw's ears flatten and I watch her pad up, ducking her head as she looks up at Antstar.

"You will now receive your medicine cat name so you can be considered a real medicine cat!" Antstar meows, looking down at Echopaw.

Yeah, or you don't want ThunderClan to look weak, I nearly growl out loud.

"I, Antstar, leader of ThunderClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look upon this apprentice. She will transfer from training to be a warrior to a medicine cat; but I still believe she will do very well at her new rank. She will train hard to understand the ways of a medicine cat, and she will serve ThunderClan for many, many moons.

Echopaw, do you promise to uphold the ways of a medicine cat, to stand apart from rivalry between Clan and Clan and to protect all cats equally, even at the cost of your life?"

Echopaw just stands there for a few moments, clearly hesitating before giving up and sighing. "Yes. I do."

Antstar nods. "Then by the powers of StarClan I give you your true name as a medicine cat. Echopaw, from this moment you will be known as Echomask. StarClan honors your patience and loyalty, and we welcome you as a new, full medicine cat of ThunderClan."

Cats don't begin cheering her name. No one.

"How will she learn the herbs?" a cat cries out from the back of the crowd.

"Exactly! She already has her medicine cat name, but she knows no herbs? This is madness!" another cat wails.

Cats began to cry out in both fear and anger, until the camp is in chaos.

| 149 |

Anxiety rises in my chest. I can feel it rising but I gulp it down.

"E-Echomask! Echomask!" I begin chanting.

No one joins in. Although I wish they had, because only *my* voice echoing off of the hollow walls makes me want to shrink under my own skin and sink into the ground forever.

But I'm doing it for Echomask.

It's just me.

Calling Echomask's name.

Until Stormpaw joins in. Then Patchpaw. Then Tallgaze. Then Stonetuft. Soon enough, every cat is calling her name.

| 152 |

Echomask looks at me and nods. I flick my tail and dip my head.

She looks happy for once.

Something I've never seen her look.

It makes me feel good inside. For me *and* for her.

The chanting stops when Antstar flicks his tail for silence. "Now, what cat knows herbs here?"

No cat speaks up until I flick an ear, standing up and padding over by Echopaw. "I-I do," I mew, looking up at my leader.

"How would *you* know any herbs?" Antstar hisses, lashing his tail and glaring down at me.

I try my best to remain calm. "Calm down, don't get your tail in a twist." Some cats laugh and I continue. "Well, I visited Patchpaw every day and Vixenfoot would always tell me the herbs...I remember most of them. Maybe I could help Echopaw?"

| 155 |

Antstar stares me dead in the eye before he sighs. "Fine. But if she slips up once, it'll be *your* fault!" he growls, turning tail and stalking into his den.

Well that worked better than I intended it to, I think.

| 156 |

Echomask and I walk into the medicine cat den. The stench of Vixenfoot is still here, and I wonder when they'll to fetch the medicine cat's body. It is oddly empty without the cheerful she-cat, yet who ordered everyone around and acted like a leader. She was still compassionate, though, and showed loyalty and bravery throughout her lifetime.

| 157 |

"So...should we begin?" Echomask whispers, her green eyes gazing into mine. I quickly look away, licking my chest fur in embarrassment as I go to fetch some of the medicines I know.

"Okay...chamomile, catmint, tansy..."

I pause. *Oh, I guess* that's *why medicine cats talk to themselves*.

"We'll start with some of the basics," I mew, grabbing some herbs and turning to her. I drop them to the ground and sit down.

I point my tail to a small white flower with a yellow center. "This is chamomile. You use it to calm a cat when they're having a break down, like when a loved one close to them dies or something."

Echomask nods.

"This-" I point to some green leaves, "-is catmint, or cat nip. It helps with Whitecough and Greencough, but I suggest saving it for Greencough instead."

| 161 |

I narrow my eyes, tying to remember the name of some small round black berries. Echomask looks up at me.

"Oh! Right! These are poppy seeds. They help numb pain and help a cat sleep. Don't usually use more than two poppy seeds."

So I keep teaching her. And luckily she has a knack for remembering and learning quick. Less work for me.

| 163 |

***A/N* : Also thank you so much PoppyTea for showing this book in your 'Best Warrior Cat Fanfictions' book!!**

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I can hear Echomask sigh and I look at her. "I'm sorry you have to do this..." I murmur. She doesn't reply and I rest my tail-tip on her shoulder. "But hey, just think about it; there are tons of warriors and no medicine cats! So you'll be extra special to the Clan."

Echomask shrugs. "I...I guess so."

"Well..." Cheering her up is harder than I thought it would be.

I look over my shoulder and see Antstar staring at me, narrowing his eyes.

What, do you think I'm going to tell her that deathberries are poppy seeds? I think angrily, lashing my tail and turning back to her.

| 166 |

"I have to go..." I mumble. I've taught her the basics, so I'll teach her some tomorrow as well.

"Wait!" she tells me, leaping forward. She stares me in the eyes. "Thank you..." she whispers.

Our eyes lock for a few moments before I look away. "Sure..." I reply, walking out of the den swiftly.

| 168 |

"Hey!" Grasspaw greets me eagerly. My stomach drops but I force a purr. "Hey."

| 169 |

My mind drifts back to Echomask.

No! I-I can't have a crush on Echomask! I can't! I haven't even ever known *her!*

| 171 |

"Are you okay?" Grasspaw asks me.

No. I don't know what to do! How can I like two she-cats at the same time?

"Uhm, I'm going hunting," I murmur.

"Oh! May I come?" Grasspaw asks.

"No, I'll do fine alone."

| 172 |

I suppress a sigh as I walk out of camp, Grasspaw's eyes following me until I disappear.

| 173 |

I trek through the forest, my tail drooping.

Already I feel horrible.

| 174 |

I walk to the edge of the forest and the lake is revealed to me, the waves crashing down on the shore, bringing more sand down with them.

I throw him in the lake and falter. I see the blood rise to the top of the small waves and come crashing down on the sand. I take a few steps back, and turn around, heading home.

My eyes narrow as the image of Thawpaw's bloody body flashes in my mind.

| 175 |

Why did I do that? I sigh. *If I had only moved my paw a little farther up…*

| 176 |

I stop my thoughts immediately when I hear a voice call out behind me:

"Son."

I quickly turn around to face Duskfur. Her pale tan-brown tabby fur is ruffling in the wind, her blue eyes narrowed at me.

"Yes, *mother*?" I speak almost in a cold tone.

| 178 |

This is the cat that never acknowledged me as a kit. Never helped me when I was left out. Never congratulated me on my first day of apprentice training. The cat that never talks to me.

"What do you want?" I ask.

She sighs. "Acornpaw...I think it's time you finally know what happened to your father."

| 180 |

***A/N* : Acornpaw is a tom, I see a lot of comments like 'yeah girl!' or stuff like that but if you didn't know then yeah Acornpaw is male XD**

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My blood turns cold. "Wh-what?" I stutter. "You mean...he *didn't* die a noble warrior?!"

| 181 |

Duskfur blinks at me and doesn't reply. "Well, let me begin way back. Back when we were apprentices..."

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A/N **: Okay, do you guys think this book is kind of rushing now? Like with the whole Echopaw and Acornpaw thing and now breaking some news of his father I just idk but I'M SO EXCITED TO WRITE MORE AND GET MORE INTO THE STORYYY. So I know it's rushed but I want to know what you guys think first. Thanks :)**

| 182 |

***A/N* : Thanks for the feedback on the last part! Got some me confidence now XD**

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"It was when your father and I were around nine moons old. He took no interest in me, but he was a handsome and very skilled and compassionate cat, and I couldn't help but love him." She pauses. "I didn't think anyone could love me since I was a depressed mess; however, I was wrong."

"Soon enough, I branched out and gathered the courage to talk to him. Soon enough we became warriors; Duskfur and . . ." she hesitates clearly, and I furrow my brows. ". . . and Cedarfall."

"Soon enough, after becoming warriors, we became mates. I never really had an interest in kits until we talked about it one night." Duskfur lowers her head. "And then we had you."

"Then the battle happened. Your father was so brave . . . I wasn't there, but I only heard about the battle. Everyone thought Cedarfall would become the next deputy. The thought of being the mate in the leader excited me." She chokes out the next words. "But I was wrong. He was a *coward*!"

"Everyone told me he died, but that never happened. He ran away to live the soft life of a kittypet; Antstar was there. He told me he watched your father leave like a coward and run away from the battle. Beyond that lays Twolegplace . . . Antstar attempted to follow Cedarfall and his tracks led directly into Twolegplace. He caught his scent and looked at one of those Twoleg nests; there he was, eating kittypet slop and being pet and purring."

| 187 |

My eyes widen and I can't catch my breath. *He . . . He did go to live to be a kittypet. I killed Thawpaw for* nothing*!*

Duskfur turns around and sighs, beginning to trek back toward camp.

"No! You can't just leave with this news!" I curl my lips into a snarl and leap forward, my claws extending toward her.

Duskfur whirls around and thwacks me on the cheek, and I land on the ground. She glowers down at me.

"Pitiful," she growls.

| 189 |

The next words she say make my eyes widen in shock and despair:

"Don't think I never saw you kill Thawpaw."

I scramble to think of something to say. "N-No, I didn't!" I lie in a wail.

Duskfur laughs. "You think I'd believe that mouse-brained excuse? I *watched* you kill him. You threw him in the lake, rolled in some brush and lapped up some water to cover it up. Cats only believed you because you seemed innocent to them." She narrows her eyes. "But *I* know."

She unsheathes her claws. "So if you ever try and kill me again, or any other cat for that matter, I *will* tell everyone what you did. And you'll have no choice to agree; guess it doesn't really matter though, it's not like Antstar trusts you anyway." She pauses and chuckles to herself. "But I think you know that already. Can't blame him. My own *son*? Killing an innocent cat?"

She draws her lips back into a snarl before whipping around and stalking back to camp. "And be more careful if you want to murder someone next time," she calls over her shoulder and then disappears in the undergrowth.

| 193 |

And then, as she leaves, I fall to the ground in pure and utter defeat, because there's nothing left for me anymore.

Nothing. at. all.

| 194 |

Duskfur's point of view.

I have finally talked to him. The little foxheart who thought he could get away with anything. Well my my, how wrong he was about that!

I almost laugh. He believed me when I hinted I wouldn't tell about his murders unless he hurt or killed another cat.

Too bad we can't have murderers in ThunderClan.

| 196 |

I return back to camp curtly and look up at Antstar's den. "Antstar! I need to see you," I call, a smirk crawling across my lips. *Here we go.*

Antstar appears out of his den, looking at me. "Yes?" he asks me.

"I need to talk to you in your den." His eyes darken but he nods, turning tail and entering his den. I climb up the steps and enter Highstone.

"What is it?" Antstar asks, looking down at me.

I smile a crooked smile. "I know some things you don't. Some things about *Acornpaw*." I pause. "Some things I'll be willing to tell you...if you give me something in return."

| A/N // Sequel |

Ok damn Wattpad won't let me write any more parts sooo Book 2! It'll be out soon!
:DDD
It'll be called..well I dunno, but I'll write it down whenever I think about the name.
So yeah! Sorry everyone, I didn't know how long Wattpad books could be but I guess I found out.

***Name Of Second Book*:**
Notions

Plot Of Second Book:
(Continued off of this book, exactly where it leaves off)

Or

The thoughts of growing Acornpaw throughout his life.

When Second Book Will Be Out:
(March 31, 2016) (published)